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POWDER SPRINGS, GA.
FORMER ARMS DEALER DEAD AT 65

Mitchell Livingston WerBell III, a soldier of fortune, former international arms dealer and one-time operator of a counter-terrorist training school, died Friday, his family announced. He was 65.

WerBell died in Los Angeles at the UCLA Medical Center after a brief illness, said his son-in-law, Perry Smith of Powder Springs.

WerBell's anti-communist activities were often said to be linked with the Central Intelligence Agency. He served as an agent with the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.

He was arrested last month of charges of carrying a weapon on federal property as he accompanied sex magazine publisher Larry Flynt into a Los Angeles federal district court, where Flynt was under contempt charges.

WerBell, who was carrying a gold-tipped cane concealing a 2-1/2-inch knife blade, was released on a \$5,000 bond. He operated a security consulting business in California, and Flynt was one of his clients.

In 1965, WerBell was a paramilitary adviser to the Dominican Republic government when a communist-backed civil war erupted. Two years later, he was indicted by a federal grand jury on conspiracy charges related to an alleged plot to invade Haiti to set up a base for anti-Castro guerillas. The charges were later dropped.

In 1969, the Air Force seized two shipments of weapons which WerBell had sent to the United States from South Vietnam.

In 1975, his son Mitchell WerBell IV and another man were indicted on charges of conspiring to sell 2,000 machine guns with silencers, allegedly to fugitive financier Robert Vesco. After blaming the indictment on enemies of the elder WerBell, the two were acquitted.

WerBell and his two sons later agreed to disband their munitions importing, exporting and manufacturing company in a deal worked out by a federal judge that allowed them to sell 3,400 machine guns, valued at \$325,000. The guns had been seized by U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents on charges they did not keep proper records.

WerBell later opened a counter-terrorist training school in Cobb County, about 20 miles north of Atlanta. He sold the school in 1981, but said at the time he was not retiring.

No funeral was planned, but a memorial service will be held, his family said.